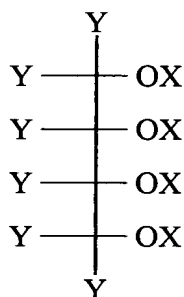


REMARKS

Claims in the case are 1-5, 7-10 and 12-29, upon entry of this amendment. Claims 1, 5, 9, 17, 18-21 and 29 have been amended, and Claim 6 has been cancelled herein. Claim 5 has been amended herein for purposes of improved clarity by replacing, in the last line of the claim, "with hydroxyl groups" to --with a hydroxyl group--. Additional amendments to the claims will be discussed further herein.

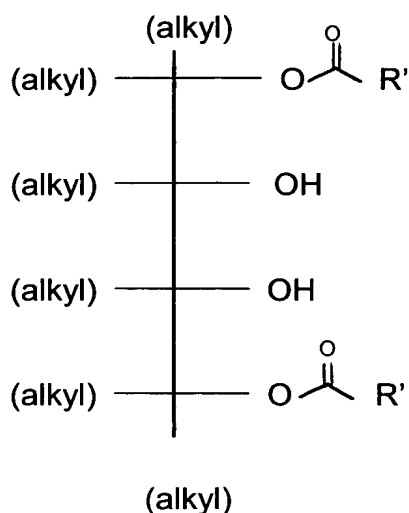
Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed with regard to the following remarks.

In the Office Action of August 18, 2002, it is argued that the recited relationship as to (i) "a carbon with a hydrogen substituent" not being located immediately adjacent to (ii) "a carbon atom with a hydroxyl group" is not adequately described in the specification. Applicants respectfully disagree. Attention is directed to the following General Formula, which is the second formula on page 8 of the specification.



On page 8, lines 12-15, X is described as being, independently, hydrogen atoms or aliphatic acyl groups, provided that more than one X is an acyl group, and more than one X is a hydrogen atom. On page 9, lines 1-5 of the specification, Y is described as being, independently, hydrogen atoms, alkyl (e.g., methyl) or aryl (e.g., phenyl) groups.

Applying the disclosure provided in Applicants' specification to the General Formula above, the following Formula-I results.



In the above Formula-I, all of the Y groups are "alkyl" groups, two of the X groups are acyl groups, and two of the X groups are hydrogen atoms. In Formula-I, a carbon atom with a hydrogen substituent is not located immediately adjacent to (i.e., alpha to or from) a carbon atom with a hydroxyl group. As such, Applicants' disclosure is deemed to adequately describe the relationship as recited in Claim 5.

In light of the preceding remarks, Applicants' specification is deemed to describe their invention, in particular with regard to Claim 5, in such full, clear, concise and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 9, 17-21 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the amendments herein and the following remarks.

Claims 9, 17-21 and 21 have been amended herein to include proper Markush language by inserting --the group consisting of-- after "selected from", each occurrence. In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, Applicants' claims are deemed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the

subject matter which they regard as their invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 12-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,131,575 (**Adelmann et al**). This rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the amendments herein and the following remarks.

The anticipation rejection over Adelmann et al does not include Claim 6. Claim 6 has been cancelled, and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into Claim 1 by amendment herein.

Adelmann et al disclose thermoplastic molding materials of high molecular weight, thermoplastic, aromatic polycarbonates, and 0.01 to 0.1 wt.% of esters of C₁₀₋₂₀ saturated aliphatic carboxylic acids with 4- to 6-hydric alcohols (abstract). The ester component may include pentaerythritol tristearate, or an oligomeric ester prepared from 1 mole of pentaerythritol, 2.4 moles of steric acid, and 0.3 moles of dodecane diacid (which would serve to oligomerize the reaction components). See column 11, Examples IV(B) and IV(C) of Adelmann et al.

Adelmann et al, however do not disclose a thermoplastic composition which includes at least one polycarbonate and a mold release agent having at least one polyol component (I) with 4 or more carbon atoms, 3 or more hydroxyl groups, more than one hydroxyl group esterified with aliphatic carboxylic acids, and one or more free hydroxyl groups, and where the number of esterified groups and free hydroxyl groups of the polyol component (I) are the same.

In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, Applicants' claims are deemed to be unanticipated by and patentable over Adelmann et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 and 12-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Adelmann et al in view of United States Reissued Patent No. US RE37,200 E (**Dunay et al**) or European Patent Application No. 0 511 640 (**Shimada**). This rejection is respectfully traversed with regard to the amendments herein and the following remarks.

Adelmann et al has been discussed previously herein, and does not disclose, teach or suggest a thermoplastic polycarbonate composition which includes a mold release agent having at least one polyol component (I) with 4 or more carbon atoms, 3 or more hydroxyl groups, more than one hydroxyl group esterified with aliphatic carboxylic acids, and one or more free hydroxyl groups, and where the number of esterified groups and free hydroxyl groups of the polyol component (I) are the same.

Dunay et al disclose discoloration resistant thermoplastic polycarbonate molding compositions (which are free from organo phosphorus compounds) which include a polycarbonate resin, and as necessary components, a dimeric benzotriazole and an ester of 3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyhydrocinnamic acid (abstract). However, Dunay et al does not disclose, teach or suggest a thermoplastic polycarbonate composition which includes a mold release agent having at least one polyol component (I) with 4 or more carbon atoms, 3 or more hydroxyl groups, more than one hydroxyl group esterified with aliphatic carboxylic acids, and one or more free hydroxyl groups, and where the number of esterified groups and free hydroxyl groups of the polyol component (I) are the same.

Shimada discloses a molding composition which includes a polycarbonate having a specific viscosity range, and 0.001 to 0.1 pphr of a saturate monovalent fatty acid monoglyceride (abstract). The molding compositions of Shimada are disclosed as being useful in the fabrication of optical moldings, such as compact disks (page 2, lines 1-4). However, Shimada does not disclose, teach or suggest a thermoplastic polycarbonate composition which includes a mold release agent having at least one polyol component (I) with 4 or more carbon atoms, 3 or more hydroxyl groups, more than one hydroxyl group esterified with aliphatic carboxylic acids, and one or more free hydroxyl groups, and where the number of esterified groups and free hydroxyl groups of the polyol component (I) are the same.

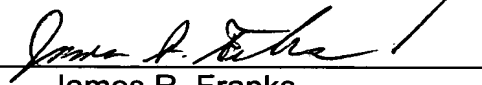
Aldeman, Dunay et al and Shimada, either alone or in combination do not disclose, teach or suggest the thermoplastic polymer mixtures of Applicants' present claims. Further, Aldeman, Dunay et al and Shimada, either alone or in combination do not disclose, teach or suggest the unexpected results that the thermoplastic polymer mixtures of Applicants' present claims provide. Attention is directed to the Examples on pages 12-19 of the specification. Polymer mixtures according to

Applicants' present invention provide a combination of reduced coefficient of friction (see the table on page 15), and improved product stability (see the tables on page 17 of the specification), relative to comparative polymer mixtures that contain mold release agents outside the limitations of present Claim 1. In the Examples, Example-1 (which is according to Applicants' invention) includes an aromatic thermoplastic polycarbonate resin and a fatty **diester** of pethaerythritol (i.e., the number of ester groups and hydroxyl groups are equivalent). Comparison Example-2 includes an aromatic thermoplastic polycarbonate resin and a glycerine **monostearate** (i.e., 2 hydroxyl groups, and one ester group; the number of ester groups and hydroxyl groups are not equivalent). Comparison Example-3 includes an aromatic thermoplastic polycarbonate resin and a **tetraester** of pethaerythritol (i.e., 4 ester groups and no hydroxyl groups; the number of ester groups and hydroxyl groups are not equivalent).

In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, Applicants' claims are deemed to be unobvious and patentable over Adelmann et al in view of Dunay et al or Shimada. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, Applicants' presently pending claims are deemed to meet all the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, and to define an invention that is unanticipated, unobvious and hence, patentable. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all of the presently pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS: (Marked-Up)

The following are versions of the amended claims with markings to show changes made thereto in the present Amendment.

1. (Twice Amended, Marked-Up) Thermoplastic polymer mixtures comprising:

at least one polycarbonate; and

at least one mould release agent with at least one polyol component;

wherein at least one polyol component (I) of said mould release agent consists of a parent substance with 4 or more carbon atoms, 3 or more hydroxyl groups, more than one hydroxyl group esterified with aliphatic carboxylic acids, and one or more free hydroxyl groups, the number of esterified groups and free hydroxyl groups of said polyol component (I) being the same.

5. (Twice Amended, Marked-Up) The thermoplastic polymer mixtures of Claim 1 wherein in polyol component (I), a carbon atom with a hydrogen substituent is not located immediately adjacent to a carbon atom with a hydroxyl group[s].

6. (Cancelled)

9. (Twice Amended, Marked-Up) The thermoplastic polymer mixtures of Claim 1 further comprising at least one additive selected from the group consisting of stabilisers, flame retardants, antistatic agents, fillers, foaming agents and colorants.

17. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) The thermoplastic mixtures of Claim 3 wherein the aliphatic carboxylic acids are selected from the group consisting of C₅-C₂₅ fatty acids and mixtures thereof.

18. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) The thermoplastic mixtures of Claim 3 wherein the aliphatic carboxylic acids are selected from the group consisting of C₈-C₂₄ fatty acids and mixtures thereof.

19. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) The thermoplastic mixtures of Claim 3 wherein the aliphatic carboxylic acids are selected from the group consisting of C₁₂-C₂₂ fatty acids and mixtures thereof.

20. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) The thermoplastic mixtures of Claim 3 wherein the aliphatic carboxylic acids are selected from the group consisting of C₁₆-C₂₀ fatty acids and mixtures thereof.

21. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) The thermoplastic mixtures of Claim 3 wherein the aliphatic carboxylic acids are selected from the group consisting of C₁₆-C₁₈ fatty acids and mixtures thereof.

29. (Once Amended, Marked-Up) The moulded articles of Claim 12 wherein said moulded articles are selected from the group consisting of compact discs and DVDs.